DESECRATION OF WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL.—The *Portsmouth Times* has the following:—"Every cathedral in England, as all know, is under the care of its dean and chapter, who alone receive praise or blame for whatever is done there for good and bad. As no one can misuse the building without their sanction and wish, so we find it our duty (although laymen) to point out the errors, whenever they occur, of those who ought to know how to preserve the sacred structures committed to their charge. We visited a day or two ago the old Cathedral of Winchester, a building that always pleases and instructs us: the fine proportion of Wykeham's nave, the simple and grand transepts, the great screen, stalls, and crypt, all seem to improve the more we see of them. The old monuments are there, but what could have possessed the clergy some years ago to put them together, "all of a heap" east of the transepts? A crusader now appears without his canopy: some monuments that were originally flat are now upright, and many more are from the nave; but we hope the bones of all were untouched; however, we leave the monuments, and turn sadly to the south transept, and there find that the Norman chapel at the south-east angle of this portion of the building—mind, a chapel where prayers were continually offered up, for the very steps to the altar still remain—here it is, we say, that upon the very spot where the altar once stood, are now two *urinals* for the use of the schoolboys, also two wooden enclosures, which we took for "conveniences" of another kind (but being locked up we could not be certain about them). The urinals, there they are as plain as possible, and the walls of the chapel are scrawled over with names and sketches of anything but of a decent or religious kind. Really such desecration of a sacred building is too bad, and we sincerely hope that this notice will induce the dean and chapter, for the sake of their own consciences, to have a proper place erected outside the building, that in future not any of the altar steps of Winchester Cathedral may be defiled but respected."

RESPECTED FRIEND,—In adopting the style of language used by my sect, it appears that offence hath been taken by some soberly reflective brethren who erroneously suppose my peculiar phraseology was adopted in a spirit of levity. It would pain me to think that such opinion were general, for of all professing Christians, I believe them to be the most genuine and primitively thinking, as well as *practising* people. My mother was of the society, and all my maternal ancestors since the time of the Commonwealth. If I have fallen off, it is owing to the laxity of the times we live in, and to the general fusion of opinion on doctrinal subjects, which I trust will finally lead all true professors to the *one fold*. My object in obtruding the remarks of a Friend in thy print was solely to advance the cause of truth and of the *poor*, and if a few words in a plain guise can conduce to such an end, perhaps both thou and they will forgive this final explanation of TABITHA QUIET.

FOUL AIR IN WELLS.—With reference to the best mode of using lime for the purification of wells, a correspondent, "W. H. K.," says:—"Put some unslaked lime into a large bucket (not so much as to cause it to fall over when it becomes slaked), and before lowering the bucket into the well, pour a sufficient quantity of water on the lime to slake it: immediately that the water has been put to the lime, let the bucket and its contents be lowered to the water in the well, but not so as to go into it. In a few minutes the well will be cleared of the foul air, the slaking lime either taking up the noxious air or forcing it out of the well. Some persons recommend throwing unslaked lime into the well; but there are, I conceive, two objections to that mode,—one, that it can seldom, or ever, be efficacious; for the lime will, of course, immediately sink to the bottom of the well, and, if the water be deep, the slaking of the lime at the bottom of the well would have little, if any, effect beyond the surface of the water. The other objection is that if lime be thrown into the well, the water will not, at least for a considerable time afterwards, be fit to drink."

WHAT IS WANTED IN LONDON.—"The metropolis has been irreparably injured," says the *Times*, "by the want of a government during the last century. With one centre of supervision, of foresight and direction, it would probably have escaped many evils which seem now irremediable. It would have had better lines of communication: it would have preserved its quays: it would have saved the Thames from its present disgusting state: it would have had public gardens and promenades within easy distance of the populous districts: it would have had handsome public buildings, museums, and libraries for the people, colleges, and charitable institutions on a proper scale: it would have provided a few assemblages of architectural objects in different parts, instead of leaving the metropolis one dead level of ugliness and vulgarity, excepting only the heart of the city in the east, and the palatial quarter in the west: it would have preserved us from the jobbery of local Acts, and the two divided energies of the Woods and Forests. Every Englishman who has been abroad this year, and has conversed with the foreigners returned from the Exhibition, must have been painfully struck with their impressions of London. Indeed, in point of external appearance, engineering, and architecture, it will not bear comparison with any continental town of 50,000 inhabitants. Look at the great Holborn thoroughfare, with its Middle-row, its precipitous descent into Farringdon-street, and its sudden contraction at Newgate-street. Lausanne, a town of only 16,000 inhabitants, has lately carried a splendid viaduct over a similar hollow to that of Holborn-hill; and Dinan, a little country town in Britanny, has just accomplished a still greater work."

THE LONDON EXCHANGE BELLS.—Messrs. C. and G. Mears, of the old-established bell foundry in Whitechapel, have published "A plain Statement of Facts relative to the Royal Exchange Chimes," from which it appears that the "changes" have been very amusingly "rung" by the Gresham Committee, in a pretty plain endeavour—by reference to successive musical authorities, all of whom seem to have been used up, and to have failed them by turns in that endeavour—to obtain an authoritative opinion that would justify them in refusing to pay Messrs. Mears the 500*l.* to which they were entitled as the price of the bells made by them for the Royal Exchange. As it was, the founders were kept out of their money for four years, one cannot well see why, since each successive musical authority on the peal appealed to seems to have had his fastidiousness satisfied by more or less trifling alterations suggested by him, and good naturedly agreed to by the founders. It is alleged, however, that there is something defective in the working of the chimes, and the committee refuse to adapt a modified key in which their own musical *employé* recommended certain tunes to be played on the bells in order to bring out their finest tones.

PARISH COLLECTORS.—It is no uncommon occurrence to hear of the defalcation of a collector of rates or taxes, and to sympathise with the respective parishioners upon the hardships which result to them in consequence thereof. The case is rendered the more vexatious from the circumstance that the body of ratepayers are helpless in the matter, being compelled to entrust these important arrangements to their officers, who, either from a laxity of duty or want of moral courage, fail to obtain the necessary security for the protection of the parishioners. In most cases the collectors are men who have filled some parish office and obtained thereby sufficient influence to be returned for the collectorship, and find no difficulty in obtaining in their circle not only men who will execute a bond guaranteeing the parish against loss, but also men who will approve of the same. These men in all probability mean well, and their consternation at a defalcation is only to be equalled by their incompetency to meet their liabilities for the same. I would appeal to public experience as to the truth of these remarks, and the general inefficiency of this species of security. Most assuredly the time has arrived when ratepayers should be relieved from the repetition of instances of "double taxation," and I earnestly hope that the insertion of these remarks will draw attention to the question. As a remedy for the evil, allow me to suggest (without having the slightest interest in, or connection with, such societies), that in the cases of collectors the same system should be adopted as at the present time is in force with the Bank of England, bankers, and other large firms, viz., requiring that all collectors should insure their probity in one of the guarantee societies, the policy of which would be deposited with the parish officers in lieu of the present private surety bond.—PHILOSOPHUS.

FOREIGN ARCHITECTS IN LONDON.—M. Cæsar Daly, the editor of the *Revue Générale de l'Architecture*, of Paris, is now in London, in worse health than his friends would wish to see him. Professor Strack, of Berlin, and several other foreign architects are also with us. Herr Zwirner, the architect engaged in the restoration of Cologne Cathedral, M. Girault de Prangey, of Dijon, and M. Hittorff, the architect of St. Vincent de Paul, Paris, best known in England by his fine works on Sicily, have recently departed from our shores, not ill-pleased with what they have seen amongst us.

ARCHITECTURE AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—We would draw the attention of our student-readers to the circumstance that Professor Donaldson will begin his course on Architecture and Construction on the 16th, knowing, as we do, the efforts Mr. Donaldson makes to render the courses as complete and instructive as possible, to awaken the intelligence of the pupils and induce a spirit of observation and thought in the young mind, so as to make them feel, if possible, that there is something ennobling in the pursuit, and worthy the highest intellectual application. We hope to find he will have a much enlarged class this session.

PLYMOUTH WORKHOUSE COMPETITION.—One of the three selected competitors, Mr. Walter Damant, has published a pamphlet, in which he complains that the design by Messrs. Arthur and Dwelley, who not only were competitors, but who drew up the plan and instructions for competition, has been selected by the guardians, although Mr. Haward, of Exeter, as arbitrator, awarded the first position to his design, and although the design so selected by the guardians, has been shown, by the report of the Poor-law Commissioners on it, to be defective in many particulars in which his (Mr. Damant's) design makes the provisions requisite, and called for by the commissioners, and that at a cost which he declares to be admitted by the arbitrator to be the lowest that could be "judiciously" stated for the specified number of inmates, and "likely to approximate to the actual cost of the works."

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION AT ST. JOHN'S, NEW BRUNSWICK.—An exhibition of the products of provincial skill and industry has been opened here with great success. The exhibition building occupies the whole width of the street before the hall. It is composed of a centre and two wings, the portico being Tetra-style—Grecian, supporting the entablature, over which is placed the city arms of large dimensions, and the flags of many nations float gaily from various parts of the roof. The extent of the building is 120 feet in all. On either hand are ranged vases containing choice plants in pots, while about the centre of the aisle, and nearly in front of the entering visitor, stands a huge circular cross made of dahlias and other flowers.

"TRIHEDRAL VIEW" OF THE EXHIBITION BUILDING.*—Amongst the many representations of the Industrial Palace before us is one recently executed by Mr. C. P. B. Shelley and Mr. Treppass, and published under the above designation. It is not so much a pretty picture as an accurate isometrical view of the building and the neighbourhood, laid down from actual survey. It gives a striking idea of the extent of the building, in comparison with surrounding objects. It had its name from the circumstance that it shows *three faces* of every object.

* Ackermann, Strand.

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